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Globalization and interdependence: international migration and development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Vanessa **Gomes** (Portugal)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 55 (see A/61/424, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 22nd and 32nd meetings, on 26 October and 1 December. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/61/SR.22 and 32).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/61/L.12 and A/C.2/61/L.47

2. At the 22nd meeting, on 26 October, the representative of South Africa, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International migration and development" (A/C.2/61/L.12), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 49/127 of 19 December 1994, 50/123 of 20 December 1995, 52/189 of 18 December 1997, 54/212 of 22 December 1999, 56/203 of 21 December 2001, 58/208 of 23 December 2003, 59/241 of 22 December 2004, 60/206 of 22 December 2005 and 60/227 of 23 December 2005 on international migration and development,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in six parts, under the symbol A/61/424 and Add.1-5.

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"*Recalling further* its resolution 60/265 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

"*Recalling* Commission on Population and Development resolution 2006/2,

"*Acknowledging* the important nexus between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, transit and destination, and recognizing that migration brings benefits as well as challenges to the global community,

"*Acknowledging also* the negative economic and social impacts resulting from forced international migration,

"*Acknowledging further* the important contribution provided by migrants and migration to development, as well as the complex interrelationship between migration and development,

"*Recalling* the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,

"*Recalling also* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

"*Reaffirming* the resolve expressed by Heads of State and Government to take measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and members of their families,

"*Recognizing* that the increasing feminization of international migration requires greater sensitivity in all policies and efforts related to the subject of international migration,

"*Recognizing also* the impact of migration on the effectiveness of public services, and the need to address, as appropriate, shortages of workers, including health and education workers, while giving appropriate attention to enhancing the capacity of developing countries in this regard,

"*Noting* the efforts of Member States, relevant United Nations bodies, organizations, funds and programmes and international and intergovernmental organizations in respect of convening events at the national, regional and international levels with a view to advancing the dialogue on the issue of international migration and development,

"*Noting also* the offer to convene a global consultative forum on international migration and development in Belgium in 2007,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled 'International migration and development';

"2. *Welcomes* the recent convening of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, on 14 and 15 September 2006 in New York, and notes the high level of participation by Member States, which

provided an opportunity for discussing the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development;

"3. *Welcomes also* the momentum created by the High-level Dialogue on the issue, and decides to consider, at its sixty-third session, the possible options for an appropriate follow-up to the High-level Dialogue within the United Nations;

"4. *Welcomes further* the ongoing efforts of Governments in the area of regional and interregional cooperation and regional consultative processes, where they exist, towards facilitating the dialogue and the exchange of information and experiences, bringing together countries of origin, transit and destination, fostering coordination and coherence at the regional and national levels, building common understanding, promoting cooperation and contributing to capacity-building;

"5. *Takes note* of the establishment of the Global Migration Group as an inter-agency coordination group;

"6. *Reaffirms* the need to adopt policies and undertake measures to reduce the cost of transferring migrant remittances to developing countries, and welcomes the efforts of Governments and stakeholders in this regard;

"7. *Reiterates* the need to consider how the migration of highly skilled persons and those with advanced education has an impact on the development efforts of developing countries;

"8. *Calls upon* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nation system and other relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, within their continuing mandated activities, to continue to address the issue of international migration and development, with a view to integrating migration issues, including a gender perspective and cultural diversity, in a more coherent way within the broader context of the implementation of agreed economic and social development goals and respect for human rights;

"9. *Recalls* its resolution 55/93, by which it proclaimed 18 December International Migrants Day, and invites Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to include in the observance of International Migrants Day, the developmental dimension of international migration, as highlighted by the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, by sharing experiences and best practices on, inter alia, how to maximize the benefits of international migration and reduce its negative impacts;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution;

"11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the sub-item entitled 'International migration and development'."

3. At its 32nd meeting, on 1 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "International migration and development" (A/C.2/60/L.47), submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Aboubacar Sadikh Barry

(Senegal), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.12.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.47 (see para. 8).

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of South Africa (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Finland (on behalf of the European Union) and Indonesia (see A/C.2/61/SR.32).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.47, draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.12 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International migration and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/127 of 19 December 1994, 50/123 of 20 December 1995, 52/189 of 18 December 1997, 54/212 of 22 December 1999, 56/203 of 21 December 2001, 58/208 of 23 December 2003, 59/241 of 22 December 2004 and 60/227 of 23 December 2005 on international migration and development, and 60/206 of 22 December 2005 on the facilitation and reduction of the cost of transfer of migrant remittances,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Recalling further its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[2] and recalling the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[3] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[4] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[5]

Recalling the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[6]

Recalling also Commission on Population and Development resolution 2006/2 of 10 May 2006,[7]

Acknowledging the important nexus between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, transit and destination, and recognizing that migration brings benefits as well as challenges to the global community,

Acknowledging also the important contribution provided by migrants and migration to development, as well as the complex interrelationship between migration and development,

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[1] See resolution 60/1.
[2] Resolution 217 A (III).
[3] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.
[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[5] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[6] Ibid., vol. 2220, No. 39481.
[7] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 5* (E/2006/25), chap. I, sect. B.

Reaffirming the resolve expressed by Heads of State and Government to take measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and members of their families,[8]

Noting the efforts of Member States, relevant United Nations bodies, organizations, funds and programmes and international and intergovernmental organizations, including the International Organization for Migration, in respect of convening events at the national, regional and international levels with a view to advancing the dialogue on the issue of international migration and development,

Noting with interest the offer of the Government of Belgium to convene a state-led initiative, the Global Forum on Migration and Development, in 2007,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development;[9]

2. *Welcomes* the convening of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, on 14 and 15 September 2006 in New York, and the high level and broad participation that provided an opportunity to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development;

3. *Takes note* of the Chairperson's summary of the High-level Dialogue;[10]

4. *Welcomes* the heightened awareness raised by the High-level Dialogue on the issue and decides to consider, at its sixty-third session, possible options for appropriate follow-up to the High-level Dialogue;

5. *Also welcomes* the ongoing efforts of Governments in the area of regional and interregional cooperation and regional consultative processes, where they exist, on migration and encourages consideration of development dimensions in such processes, towards facilitating the dialogue and the exchange of information and experiences, fostering coordination at the regional and national levels, building common understanding, promoting cooperation, contributing to capacity-building and strengthening partnerships among countries of origin, transit and destination;

6. *Takes note with interest* of the establishment of the Global Migration Group;

7. *Calls upon* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, within their respective mandates, to continue to address the issue of international migration and development, with a view to integrating migration issues, including a gender perspective and cultural diversity, in a more coherent way within the broader context of the implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and respect for human rights;

8. *Recalls* its resolution 55/93 of 4 December 2000, by which it proclaimed 18 December International Day of the Migrant, and invites Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to include in the observance of International Day of the Migrant the developmental dimension of international migration, as highlighted by the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and

[8] See resolutions 55/2 and 60/1.

[9] A/60/871.

[10] A/61/515.

Development held in New York, by sharing experiences and best practices on, inter alia, how to maximize the benefits of international migration and reduce its negative impacts;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the sub-item entitled "International migration and development".